



# **NEWS RELEASE**

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHILIP ANGELIDES

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## **CALIFORNIA TREASURER'S OFFICE LAUNCHES ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR LOW-COST STUDENT LOANS**

### **CalEdge Technology Provides Automated Application Process for Students and Financial Aid Administrators**

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – State Treasurer Philip Angelides, chair of the California Educational Facilities Authority (CEFA), today announced that CEFA is launching a new Web-based system to make it easier for students attending college in California to apply for CalEdge, a low-cost, fixed rate loan. With the new system, not only is the application process for students dramatically streamlined, but financial aid administrators (FAAs) can certify that a student is eligible for the loan online.

CalEdge is sponsored by the CEFA and Chela Financial, a non-profit education finance company based in San Francisco. Chela Financial administers the CalEdge program for the State. Launched in 1998, CalEdge is a credit-based, consumer education loan program for students attending participating California colleges and universities that help meet costs not covered by other financial aid.

The website address for student applicants is **[www.chelafin.com](http://www.chelafin.com)**.

According to Treasurer Angelides, an online application process was the next logical step to the CalEdge consumer education loan program. "Today's college students are using the Internet for every imaginable application — from doing academic research to finding an apartment or a job," Angelides said. "Therefore, it seemed appropriate to take the next step in offering CalEdge, one of the best financing options available to California students, through an online application program."

Currently, 38 California colleges and universities participate in CalEdge. However, any California college student who is interested in taking advantage of a CalEdge loan is encouraged to talk to the financial aid administrator at their school about enrolling in the program. Compared to the majority of other educational lenders offering interest rate educational loans, Cal-Edge offers a low fixed interest rate for the life of the loan.

This rate is currently between 7.8 percent and 8.25 percent, depending on when a student begins paying back the loan.

CEFA is a state authority created in 1973 for the purpose of issuing revenue bonds to assist private non-profit institutions of learning. Because CEFA is authorized to issue tax-exempt bonds, it may provide more favorable financing to such private institutions than might otherwise be obtainable.

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